

# THE COUNTY CONNECTION

A Monthly Newsletter from Mayor Randall Hutto Mt. Juliet | Lebanon | Watertown



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We've had a busy year so far here at the Wilson County Courthouse! We expect to be just as busy this February, but there won't be just business going on at the county courthouse. We will showcase the traveling exhibit, To Make Our Voices Heard: Tennessee Women's Fight for the Vote, for the third consecutive year in a row! The exhibit will be on display from February 14th-March 9th in honor of Black History Month (in February) and Women's History Month (in March).

The exhibit, which is free to the public, will present the stories of extraordinary Tennessean women who made their marks on their communities during the suffrage movement. It is astonishing to think that over one century ago, right here in Middle Tennessee, this movement came to fruition. We will all soon exercise our right to vote in the upcoming county elections. The county primary elections are coming up on May 3, 2022, with early voting held during April 13-28, 2022. The county general election will be on August 4, 2022, with early voting held during July 15-30, 2022. If you have any questions, call the Election Commission at 615-444-0216. Be sure to remember these remarkable Tennessean suffragists as you make your way to the polls!

As Wilson Countians, we take much pride in our state and in our community. Though our journeys through life may be different, there is one thing that we have in common: we share Wilson County as our home. My office staff and I love our county, and we are proud to serve our community. It goes without saying that home is where the heart is, especially in a county that is literally called "the Place to Be."

Randal Huth

### Commissioner Spotlight: Dan Walker District 10



Contact
INFORMATION

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## Wilson County LANDFILL

**WINTER HOURS** 

MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:00AM-3:00PM

ALL LOADS MUST BE CHECKED INTO THE SCALE HOUSE BY 2:30 P.M.

PLEASE DIRECT QUESTIONS TO 615.449.6684

#### **Vehicle Emissions Testing No Longer Required in Wilson County**

Vehicle emissions testing in Wilson County has now come to an end. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved a revision to the state's air quality plan last year, which was published in the Federal Register in August. The approval became effective on September 16, 2021, 30 days after the publication in the Federal Register. Tennessee law states elimination of vehicle emissions testing becomes effective after 120 days following EPA's approval, thus the end date of the program was, January 14, 2022.

As explained by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee General Assembly passed a bill in 2018 that eliminated vehicle emissions testing in the state 120 calendar days following EPA approval. In February 2020, the state submitted to EPA its revision to the state's air quality plan requesting removal of the vehicle emissions testing program. EPA determined that the removal of vehicle emissions testing in the state is consistent with the federal Clean Air Act and all applicable regulations. EPA's technical analysis concluded that after removal of vehicle emissions testing, the Middle Tennessee area will continue to comply with all National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Thus, residents of Wilson County who register after will not have to undergo vehicle emissions testing.

### Wilson County Health Dept. Offers COVID-19 Testing & Vaccinations at Fairgrounds

As of press time, all testing and vaccinations are being conducted at the Wilson County fairgrounds. COVID-19 vaccinations is held from 8:30am -10:30am Mondays - Fridays. COVID-19 testing are held from 12:30pm - 3:00pm Mondays - Fridays. \*No appointments are needed for vaccinations or testing, as this is a drive thru event.\* The patients will stay in their vehicles. From there, patients will drive up to the medical staff and proceed to get their COVID-19 vaccine or test. Furthermore, self-test kits will still be available at both the health department and the fairgrounds.

For updates on the COVID-19 testing and vaccination schedule, visit the county's website at <a href="https://www.wilsoncountytn.gov">www.wilsoncountytn.gov</a>.

For questions, please call the Wilson County Health Department at (615)444-5325.

\*The Wilson County Health Department is owned and operated by the TN Department of Health.





February 01
Chinese New Year

February 02
Groundhog Day

February 04
World Cancer Day

**February 14** Valentine's Day

**February 17**Random Acts of
Kindness Day

February 21
President's Day

February 7-14 Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week

February 19-26 National FFA Week

**Black History Month** 

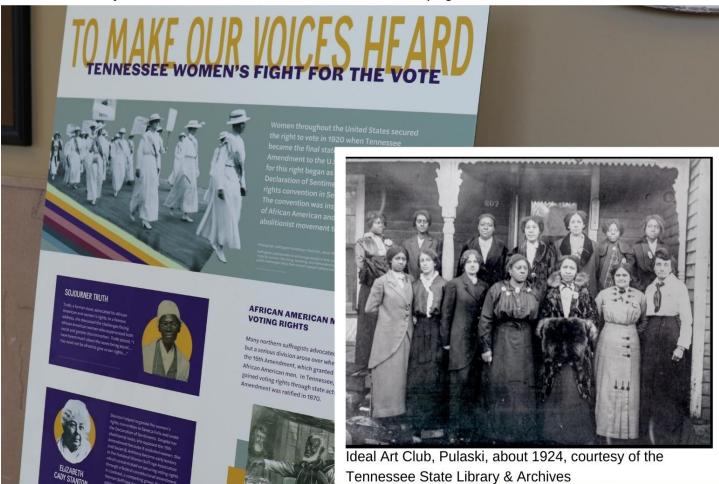
National Cancer Prevention Month

#### Wilson County Courthouse Presents 'To Make Our Voices Heard: Tennessee Women's Fight for the Vote' in honor of Black History Month & Women's History Month

The Wilson County Courthouse presents To Make Our Voices Heard: Tennessee Women's Fight for the Vote, a traveling exhibition, on display Monday, February 14th-Wednesday, March 9th in honor of both Black History Month and Women's History Month. The exhibition, created in partnership with the Tennessee State Museum and the Tennessee State Library and Archives, explores the history of the women's suffrage movement, Tennessee's dramatic vote to ratify the 19th Amendment in 1920, and the years that followed.

"As a leader in Wilson County, I am proud to offer this exhibit for the third consecutive year and commemorate the extraordinary women of Tennessee who rallied for women's suffrage and ultimately made it possible," said Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto.

The exhibition is constructed of multiple dynamic panels, offering guests a touch-free experience of archival images, engaging stories, and introductions to the leaders of the fight for and against the cause of women's suffrage. The stories begin by detailing the early challenges of racial and gender discrimination and continuing to the organization of African American and white women's associations to encourage political engagement. Visitors will also learn about Febb Burn of McMinn County, whose letter to her son, Harry T. Burn, resulted in a last-minute vote that helped change women's history in the United States forever. *Continued on page 05...* 



# Continued... Wilson County Courthouse Presents 'To Make Our Voices Heard: Tennessee Women's Fight for the Vote' in honor of Black History Month & Women's History Month

continued from page 04..."Tennessee's role in becoming the 36th and final state to ratify the 19th Amendment not only solidified women's right to vote but propelled women across the country to opportunities and futures they never thought possible," said Chuck Sherrill, State Librarian and Archivist with the Tennessee State Library & Archives. "The hope of the committee is this centennial celebration will do the same all across our state."

The Wilson County Courthouse is located at 228 East Main Street in Lebanon, TN. The courthouse is open Monday through Friday from 8:00A.M.-4:00P.M. Patrons and visitors alike may enter through the building's front doors to view the exhibit. The exhibit is free of charge and will be displayed upstairs in front of the County Commission meeting room. The exhibit's touch-free panels will be separated to allow room for social distancing.

To Make Our Voices Heard: Tennessee Women's Fight for the Vote is organized by the Tennessee State Museum and the Tennessee State Library and Archives with funding provided by The Official Committee of the State of Tennessee Woman Suffrage Centennial. The project is also funded in part by a grant from Humanities Tennessee, an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Stop by the Wilson County Courthouse from February 14-March 9 to celebrate Black History Month & Women's History Month by learning about these extraordinary Tennessean suffragists!



Mayor Hutto Proclaims January as Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month in Wilson Co., TN

On January 11, 2021, County Mayor Hutto signed a proclamation which declared the month of January as Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month in Wilson County, Tennessee. Human trafficking continues to be a public health concern around the globe and can target individuals from any class, religion, or cultural or ethnic group. Through this proclamation, Wilson County citizens are encouraged to raise awareness and learn how to identify the signs of human trafficking.



#### Wilson County Qualifies for **Federal Help to Support Recovery** from December Tornadoes

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency reported on January 14, 2022 that 12 Tennessee counties were designated by the President to receive FEMA's Individual Assistance program through a Major Disaster Declaration for the deadly tornado outbreak on Dec. 10, and Dec. 11, 2021.

The Tennessee counties named in the Major Disaster Declaration are Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Gibson, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Obion, Stewart, Sumner, Weakley, and Wilson.

FEMA is still reviewing data assessment data in determining whether the counties will be eligible for the Public Assistance program.

Individuals in the declared counties can apply now for direct assistance through FEMA's IA program. Individuals can apply for FEMA's IA program as follows:

- 1. Online at DisasterAssistance.gov; or,
- By phone at 1-800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585). 2.

Those eligible for FEMA's IA program may receive help with rental assistance, the repair of homes and replacement of personal property, and other uninsured or under-insured losses from the disaster.

FEMA's application phone number is available from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m., Central, and multilingual operators are available.

FEMA's More information program fema.gov/assistance/individual.



The Red Cross is experiencing a

### **BLOOD** SHORTAGE

Your donation is needed!

See page 10 of this newsletter on the upcoming blood drive or visit **redcross.org** to schedule your appointment today!

#### Mayor Hutto to Proclaim Feb. 19-26 National FFA Week in Wilson Co., TN

The Future Farmers of America (FFA) promotes premier leadership, personal growth and career success among its members. Agricultural education and F.F.A. ensure a steady supply of young professionals to meet the growing needs in the science, business, and technology of agriculture. This month, Mayor Hutto will sign a proclamation that will acknowledge February 19-26, 2022 as National FFA Week in Wilson County, TN.

Thank you to all of the teachers and students who have taken an active role in succeeding in agricultural education!



"Learning to Do. Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve"

#### Potential Tax Relief Available to Those Impacted by Recent Storms

The Department of Revenue is reminding Tennessee residents impacted by December's severe weather that they are potentially eligible for sales tax refunds on home appliances, home furniture, and home building supplies, as they rebuild after storms.

To be eligible for a refund, residents must be receiving financial assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the repair, replacement, or construction of their primary home that was damaged or destroyed. To receive a refund, the Tennessee resident must file a claim with the Department of Revenue on the TNTAP website (<a href="mailto:tntap.tn.gov/eservices/\_/">tntap.tn.gov/eservices/\_/</a>). Claims can be filed up to one year from the date on the FEMA decision letter.

Here's what you need to know when filing a claim on TNTAP:

- Eligible items are major appliances purchased for \$3,200 or less, residential furniture purchased for \$3,200 or less, and residential building supplies purchased for \$500 or less.
- The maximum amount of refund available to any one residence is \$2,500.
- A person can file only ONE claim for a primary residence. The claim should include all Tennessee sales and use tax paid, up to \$2,500, to all retailers for any eligible items. Receipts and invoices should be compiled and tracked so that all eligible items purchased after the date of the disaster from all retailers can be submitted at one time.

For a step-by-step guide on filing a sales tax refund claim, and for answers to some of the frequently asked questions about this refund, visit <a href="https://www.tn.gov/revenue/taxes/sales-and-use-tax/natural-disaster-sales-tax-relief.html">https://www.tn.gov/revenue/taxes/sales-and-use-tax/natural-disaster-sales-tax-relief.html</a>.

#### REI Co-op to Establish Distribution Center in Lebanon, Tennessee

It has recently been announced that the specialty outdoor retailer, REI, will establish a new distribution center in Lebanon, Tennessee. REI is the nation's largest consumer co-op, and will create more than 280 new jobs in Wilson County as a result of this project. Construction is now underway and the facility, REI's fourth distribution center in the country, is expected to open fall 2023. Once complete, it will serve more than 70 REI stores on the East Coast and in the Midwest and South.

Headquartered near Seattle, REI is a specialty outdoor retailer with 174 locations across 41 states and the District of Columbia. Since 1938, the company has provided quality gear and apparel and expert advice to consumers with a love of the outdoors. REI operates five stores in Tennessee that employ nearly 300 people across the state.

Situated on 41 acres in Wilson County, the 400,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility will be one mile from I-40 and three miles from downtown Lebanon at 1400 Murfreesboro Road. It is being constructed with industry-leading sustainability and technology features. The design is centered on a productive and healthy build environment that intentionally takes into consideration how employees work, rest and connect to nature.

"On behalf of Wilson County, I want to welcome REI Coop to our community. This decision was made possible because of the partnership formed with REI and members of our economic development team especially those of the Wilson County Commission. We look forward to continuing our relationship and of being part of REI's newest technology driven omni-channel operation center. Their commitment to sustainability, to their people and to commitment to technology blends well with the goals and plans of our county. We look forward to further partnering with REI though their community outreach, events and stewardship programs," said Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto.

#### **Disaster Unemployment Available in Twelve TN Counties**

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) announced that workers whose jobs were impacted by December tornadoes that caused damage in twelve Tennessee counties can now apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved a major disaster declaration (FEMA-4637-DR-TN), making this assistance available to Tennesseans whose jobs were impacted by the destructive tornadoes in Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Gibson, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Obion, Stewart, Sumner, Weakley, and Wilson counties.

DUA provides temporary unemployment benefits to workers, and self-employed individuals, whose livelihood was lost or interrupted due to a major disaster and who do not meet eligibility requirements for the state unemployment program.

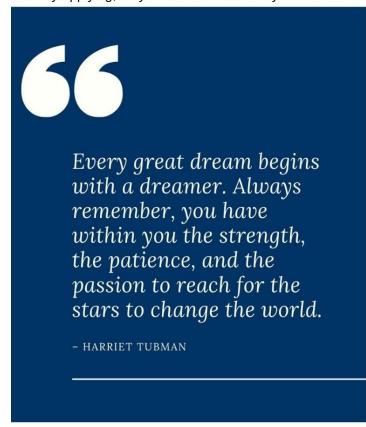
Workers whose employment was impacted by the tornadoes can apply for DUA by visiting their local American Job Center, or if they have computer and internet access, they can apply for DUA benefits at <a href="https://www.jobs4tn.gov/">https://www.jobs4tn.gov/</a>.

The United States Department of Labor oversees and funds the DUA program, and it is administered by the TDLWD.

Claimants must meet certain criteria to become eligible for DUA, including having one week of unemployment following the date of the disaster, the individual was unable to reach their place of employment after the disaster, the individual was scheduled to start work and the job no longer exists, the individual became the major support because the head of household died because of the disaster, or the individual cannot work because of injuries sustained during the disaster.

Applications for DUA must be filed within 30 days of the announcement of the availability of the program for the impacted areas. The deadline associated with this disaster declaration is February 21, 2022.

Claimants will need to provide proof of employment when applying for DUA. They can use income tax returns, bank statements, pay stubs, or work orders to verify employment. If the claimant cannot provide proof of employment when initially applying, they have 21 calendar days from the time they file the claim to provide documentation.





# Lebanon Special School District Receives Governor's Civic Seal Grant submitted by Beth Petty

Earlier this year, Lebanon Special School District was awarded a Governor's Civics Seal Grant totaling \$27,000 to be used across the district. Students and staff have been busy learning and leading. From March 2020-March 2021, Wilson County faced a tornado, pandemic and flooding. Our government and community leaders rallied to make sure that LSSD students, family and staff had what was needed for continued success. Our grant was written to ensure that we are raising up the next generation of leaders who will understand government and civic leadership work and how they can play a vital role in their community. In addition to traditional learning that aligns with Academic Standards, LSSD students have also been participating in community give back projects such as, Taste of Wilson, the Paint WilCo mural tour, food and book drives, installing Little Outdoor Libraries, projects to benefit Compassionate Hands and Brooks House, and a strawberry patch with berries and notes of encouragement going to homebound Wilson County Senior Citizens. Again, the community has rallied and support has come from many areas, including partnerships with other youth including the Friendship Christian Leadership class as well as Youth Leadership Wilson. Students will also be taking field trips to explore the community and varied careers our county has to offer. Students are busy collecting the 120-year history of LSSD. We are currently looking for old photos and human-interest stories to be included in a book the district will have printed. For more information, contact Beth Petty, LSSD Family Resource Center Director/Community Relations Manager at 615-453-2693. Stories and photos can also be submitted to beth.petty@lssd.org

In February, LSSD students will visit Governor Lee to report our progress on the grant and interview him about government and leadership. We are also looking forward to Mayor Hutto and Mayor Bell speaking to groups of LSSD students. This Spring, students will continue to lead and give back to the community as we partner with the City of Lebanon to host family events that incorporate learning and service.

#### VIRTUAL

#### WORK FROM HOME TRAINING



Even before the pandemic, more people were working from home because of

ever-evolving technology. Since then, the number of remote positions has increased by a staggering 87 percent. Gain the knowledge you need to succeed in a work-from-home career with this free virtual training from Goodwill Career Solutions.

#### **TOPICS INCLUDE:**

Proper Etiquette

Home Office Set-up

Internet Safety

The "Work-From-Home Essentials"

#### REQUIREMENTS

Participants must register as a Career Solutions client.



FOR MORE INFO, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT US ONLINE AT:

giveit2goodwill.org/employability-skills

1985 Providence Pkwy. Mt. Juliet, TN 37122





The Lebanon Senior Citizens Center in partnership with Leadership Wilson cordially invites you

Annual Valentine Banquet Saturday, February 12, 2022 The Mill at Lebanon 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm Tickets are \$50

Menu includes: choice of beef or chicken tossed salad, roasted new potatoes green beans, bread, dessert tea, wine and coffee

This wonderful evening never disappoints!

Music, dancing, silent auction items and
door prizes! Seats are limited and
no tickets will be sold at the door.

This event is open to all adults.

### TDCI: REMINDS BUSINESSES TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL RELIEF FROM STORMS SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION LOANS

The Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance (TDCI) reminds businesses in Tennessee that Tuesday, **February 8, 2022**, is the filing deadline for federal Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs). These loans are related to losses due to the severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding Tennesseans experienced from March 25, 2021 through April 3, 2021. The Small Business Administration (SBA) loans were created to support businesses' recovery from disasters and catastrophes. Working capital disaster loans are available up to \$2 million at 3 percent for small businesses, and 2 percent for private nonprofit organizations, with terms up to 30 years.

The loans are intended to cover expenses that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred including

fixed debts, payroll, and accounts payable. To be considered for this assistance, eligible entities need to apply by the February 8, 2022 deadline.

"TDCI supports the professionals who own and operate the small businesses that make community stronger — everything from local insurance agencies, auto sales, beauty shops, barber shops, and more," said TDCI Deputy Commissioner Toby Compton. " urge small business owners who may have suffered losses from the natural disasters in late March and early April to learn more about federal relief through the SBA EIDL program."

Small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aguaculture. and private nonprofit organizations located in the following counties may be apply: eligible to Cannon. Cheatham, Davidson, Dekalb, Dickson, Hickman, Marshall, Maury, Robertson, Rutherford, Smith, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson and Wilson.



# Blood Drive Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital

Red Cross Bus 1411 Baddour Parkway Lebanon, TN 37087

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: VanderbiltWilsonCo to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.





Warm hearts, great gifts! As our thanks for coming to give Feb. 1-28, we'll send you a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, thanks to our partners at Amazon! Terms apply. Visit rcblood.org/together.



Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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Wilson County Government Offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 21st in observance of



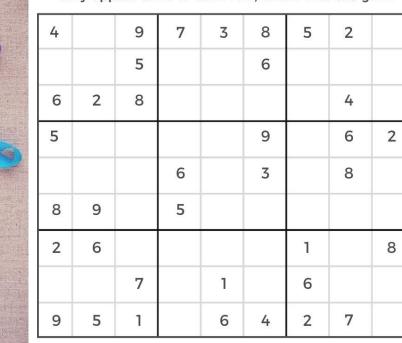
Offices will re-open during their usual business hours on Tuesday, Feb. 22nd

### **NTINE'S DAY RD SEARCH**





FIII out the blocks so that the numbers one to nine will only appear once in each row, colum and 3x3 grid.





# #Paint WilCo

# BUTTERFLY MURAL UNVEILING IN CONJUNCTION WITH DREAMS BOUTIQUE REOPENING

February 3rd 2021 124 Public Square, Lebanon TN 11:00-1:00

Come out to celebrate Downtown Lebanon Square while enjoying local food trucks, ribbon cutting begins at 11:45.

> Presented by: Wilson County Convention & Visitors Bureau

> > Downtown Lebanon TN

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For more information, contact: tourism@wilsoncountytn.gov





- . What ACEs are and how they impact our community
- · What others in Wilson County are doing to become trauma-informed
- . The role of ACEs in our work and relationships with those we serve
- Building a more resilient Wilson County

Wilson County Board of Education Building 415 Harding Drive Lebanon, TN 37087 February 15, 2022 8:30-9:30AM

**Light Refreshments** 

An opportunity for questions and discussion















# RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY

**FEBRUARY 17** 

A DAY TO CELEBRATE AND ENCOURAGE RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

#### **SOLES4SOULS: TURNING NEW SHOES**

#### INTO OPPORTUNITIES

submitted by Zabrina Seay. Director of the Wilson County Veterans Services Office



You know that when it comes to our friends and neighbors in Wilson County, we are always ready and willing to help. Sometimes we forget that there are families and individuals who are in need, right here in Wilson County. This year's Leadership Middle Tennessee's Class of 2022 is partnering with Soles4Souls; a nonprofit organization that turns new shoes into opportunities by providing relief, creating jobs, and empowering people to break the cycle of poverty. Leadership Middle Tennessee is raising funds and collecting new shoes to benefit Soles4Souls in a ten-county area within Middle Tennessee.

You may ask, how can I help? You can help Leadership Middle Tennessee - Wilson County shine in this friendly county-to-county fundraiser by making a donation through our campaign so Soles4Souls may further their efforts within our local community. You can donate new athletic shoes, encourage others to donate OR share this link https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/leadershipmtwilsoncounty with your contacts. Soles4Souls can turn your monetary donation into a new pair of shoes for someone in need. What a better way to start the new year than to give, serve others and continue to prove we are #WilsonCountyStrong during this friendly competition?

#### Why give shoes to kids without homes?

While many organizations are focused on the critical needs of food and shelter, school officials tell us shoes are essential for students to succeed in school. By providing new shoes, you're not just providing a pair of shoes, but the opportunity for a child to have dignity, attend school comfortably, and participate in activities. A pair of shoes can change a child's day, their year, their outlook. Learn more at soles4souls.org/4EveryKid

All Wilson County Wilson Bank & Trust offices will have collection sites to drop off new shoes now through February

28th.

What: New youth athletic shoes (all sizes)

When: Now through February 28th

Where: Any Wilson Bank & Trust Location







#### DONATE NEW ATHLETIC SHOES HERE

#### DATES: JANUARY 1ST - FEBRUARY 28TH

Help Us Get New Shoes to TN Youth in Need!



#### **MIDDLE TENNESSEE**

(41 counties, including Greater Nashville)

Of the 429 780 total students enrolled in public schools

9,908

students are experiencing homelessness

of total students are experiencing homelessness\*

118,481

total students on free & reduced lunches

\*this is an average

#### **GREATER NASHVILLE AREA**

Of the 319,111 total students enrolled in public schools

8,264

students are experiencing homelessness

2.59%

of total students are experiencing homelessness\*

81,147

total students on free & reduced lunches

\*this is an average



This year's LMT Wilson County representatives, pictured above (left to right): Erik Moses, President of Nashville Super Speedway, Andy White, Executive Director of Prospect, Inc., ZaBrina Seay, Director of Wilson County Veterans Service Office, and John McDearman, Chief Executive Officer of Wilson Bank & Trust.